Creation of fund for National Highway Development Project

4685. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to introduce the Cess Act for creating a dedicated fund to finance the National Highway Development Project,

(b) whether Re. 1 cess on petrol and diesel which accrue from this plan will be transferred to the Central Road Fund for the construction of this project; and

(c) if so, what is the total cost of this project and the source of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, out of the total cess levied on High Speed Diesel and Petrol 50% of the cess levied on High Speed Diesel will be transferred to Ministry of Rural Development for developing rural roads. Out of the balance amount 57.5% would be utilised for development and maintenance of National Highways, 12.5% allocated to Ministry of Railways for railway over-bridge and railway safety work at unmanned railway crossings and 30% allocated for State sector roads.

(c) The total estimated cost for National Highway Development Project is Rs. 54,000 crore. This will be funded from general budgetary support, external assistance, market borrowings, private sector participation and the Central Road Fund.

Allocation of funds for NHs in North-Eastern Region

4686. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount earmarked by the Central Government for construction, widening, maintenance and repair of various National Highways in the country particularly in the States

of NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan, National Highway-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the actual amount released so far for the same during this period; National Highway-wise, Year-wise, State-wise; and

(c) the details of scheme and programmes formulated by Government for development of roads in the rural areas of the country particularly in the NER States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Central Government allocates the funds for construction and maintenance of National Highways State-wise and not Highway-wise. A statement indicating allocation to different States is given in the Annexure: *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 119]

(c) No specific scheme or programme has been formulated by Central Government for development of roads in rural areas of North-Eastern States since Central Government is mainly responsible for development of National Highways only.

Feasibility study on road link to major ports

4687. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to link road network with the major ports since long;

(b) if so, whether various feasibility studies have been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of the further scheduling of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has planned to develop road linkages to major ports namely Calcutta & Haldia in West Bengal, Paradip in Orissa, Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Chennai, Ennore & Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, Cochin in Kerala, New Mangalore in Karnataka, Mormugao in Goa, Mumbai & Jawaharlal Nehru in Maharashtra and Kandla in Gujarat. The road linkages identified for development include stretches of National Highways as also State roads. As a first